



# Clear Lake

# NEWS

APRIL - JUNE, 2017

## TOWN OF CLEAR LAKE

Again this year, spring has come early. We had ice on the lake at Christmas, but by early February it was gone. We did not have much snow this winter, but we had lots of rain. The first dock in was Bill and Chris Geiger's on February 18th. Two fishing boats were on the lake on February 22.

Town Council is continuing to maintain and improve the roads within the town limits. Last year we completed a project on East Clear Lake Drive in the Point Park area and on South Clear Lake Drive between CR 700 East and Gecowets Drive. This year we have two areas of East Clear Lake Drive scheduled to be repaved before Memorial Day weekend. If we receive a Community Crossings Grant from INDOT this year, we hope to improve a stretch of West Clear Lake Drive and Fountain Beach Road.

### **Here are some important dates to mark on your 2017 calendar:**

- Spring leaf pick up will occur May 1-5 and May 22-June 2. Fall leaf pick up will begin October 2 and continue through December 1. If you use a commercial lawn service, please inform them of these dates.
- Heavy trash pickup is scheduled for Saturday, June 10, and Saturday, September 16. Please have your items available for pick up by 6:00 am. (*See page 4 for additional TRASH information.*)
- The Clear Lake Directory will be available for residents to pick up mid May at Town Hall.

Town Hall business hours are noon-4:00 pm, Monday through Thursday, or by appointment (260-495-9148). A drop-off box is available for payments or correspondence. Please remember that the Town of Clear Lake's website ([www.townofclearlake.org](http://www.townofclearlake.org)) is your source for official announcements postings, meeting agendas and minutes, as well as an up-to-date calendar of town events. Additional items include the town's Code of Ordinances, Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), and official forms. A list of email addresses for town employees and departments is also included.

## ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

Residents are asked to remember - **and also inform guests or renters** - of the Animal Control Ordinance which applies to all areas within the town limits, including KASOTA ISLAND. The ordinance:

- Prohibits animals running at large unless the animal is properly on a leash, with the leash not to exceed ten feet in length.
- Requires confinement of every animal so that it cannot stray beyond the premises of the owner or keeper.
- Prohibits keeping or harboring any dog or other animal which barks, yelps, howls or creates disturbing noises which disturb the peace, quiet, and good order of the town.
- Prohibits defecation on public property or private property of another, unless the owner/custodian possesses the necessary tools and equipment to remove the defecation, and requires immediate removal of defecation.

## MARSHAL'S REPORT

Warmer weather and all the fun that goes with it will be soon upon us. I would like to call attention to several reminders and rules of the road/water to help us have a safe and enjoyable season. Please pay special attention to the new Parking Ordinance (#3).

1. **Speed Limit** – The speed limit on all roads within the town limits is **25 mph**. In many cases 25 mph is too fast for the narrow roads and, when you factor in runners, walkers, bikers, etc., it becomes unsafe for all. Please reduce your speed to adjust to the conditions.
2. **Leash Law** – The Town of Clear Lake has a leash law. It is unlawful to allow dogs to run at large; they must be on a leash at all times (including Kasota Island). Owners are also required to pick up waste left by their pets. Dogs are not allowed at the County Park.
3. **Parking** – (From Ordinance 2016-18)  
Section 1: It shall be unlawful to stop, stand or park a vehicle or trailer upon any road or street, or park a vehicle on or across a sidewalk, private or public driveway in the Town of Clear Lake, except as herein after provided: (A) In connection with utility maintenance or residential construction temporarily blocking of one side of the roadway is permitted for up to four (4) hours, so long as free passage of vehicular traffic is permitted on the opposite side of the road or street and appropriate signage or temporary traffic cones are placed for the safe travel of other motorists upon the road or street; (B) If, for any period in excess of four (4) hours as provided in paragraph A above, or for a total closure of the roadway required for utility maintenance or residential construction, a daily permit shall be secured from the Town Street & Sewer Superintendent at a cost of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day, but in no event shall stopping or parking be permitted before sunrise or after sunset. For periods in excess of four (4) hours or total closure, the utility or contractor shall also be required to post additional signage advising the motoring public of any required detour, and 24 hours in advance, shall advise Steuben County 911 and the Fremont Fire Department of any partial or total blockage of the roadway.  
Section 2: (A) Any person violating any provision of this chapter shall be subject to a fine of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for each violation thereof payable to the Clerk-Treasurer. (B) The provisions of this ordinance shall be enforced by the Clear Lake Police Department (C) If a violation of this ordinance presents an immediate danger to the public as determined by the officer, the Clear Lake Police Department is hereby authorized to secure the services of a properly licensed vehicle towing operator on the Steuben County Communication wrecker rotation to remove any vehicle found in violation of this ordinance, the cost of which shall be at the expense of the owner of any vehicle which is towed.
4. **Fireworks** – Fireworks can only be used during certain times of the year within the town limits. They are permitted on Memorial Day week end, June 29-July 9, and Labor Day week end. They are prohibited any other time during the year. Please be respectful of your neighbors.
5. **Campers (RVs)** – The Town of Clear Lake has regulations regarding use of Recreational Vehicles within the town limits. Please contact the Zoning Administrator if you have questions.
6. **Golf Carts (Gators, Rangers, etc.)** – The town ordinance requires any golf cart operating on public roads within the town limits to have a permit issued by the Town Marshal. All operators must have a valid driver's license. The Marshals are stepping up enforcement of this law. Four-wheelers and go-carts are not allowed on public streets. Indiana has registration requirement for mopeds and scooters. Please **check your golf cart renewal registration for 2017** and make sure you're legal.

7. **Watercraft** – Indiana Law requires the operator of a watercraft 10 hp or greater to be at least 16 years old (15 years old and in possession of a boaters permit issued by the DNR). This applies to boats as well as personal watercraft. The speed limit inside the buoys (200 ft. from shore) is Idle Speed and you must travel perpendicular to the shore. Be mindful of fisherman. Indiana law requires that a watercraft that is docked in Indiana waters longer than 30 days must be titled/registered.

We are also asking that anyone who has a video camera system that show roadways and so forth and would be willing to share information contact us. Please send an email regarding your type of video system to [marshal@townofclearlake.org](mailto:marshal@townofclearlake.org) and it will be kept confidential. Thank you.

Kevin Kane, Clear Lake Town Marshal

### **CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION**

The Clear Lake Association annual membership letter will be mailed to all property owners in May. Your membership dues and donations not only support the annual fireworks display, but also provide financial support to organizations which serve our community. Last year some of these included the Fremont Fire Department, the Steuben County Humane Society, the Steuben County Sheriff's Department Lake Patrol, and several other groups. CLA also produces this quarterly newsletter to keep the community informed. Your continued support is appreciated.

If you have a swim buoy, please make sure you get it in the water by Memorial Day. The annual July 4th fireworks will be held at dusk **Saturday, July 1**. The rain date will be Sunday, July 2. The Clear Lake Association annual meeting is scheduled for **Saturday July 15th**, 9:30 am, at Town Hall. Please join your Association and help us keep Clear Lake the great place we all enjoy. Looking forward to summer!

### **BOATER SAFTY CLASS**

The Clear Lake Association will once again sponsor the State of Indiana-approved Boater Safety Class conducted by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The program is scheduled for **Saturday, June 10**, 8:00 am-3:00 pm at the Clear Lake Town Hall, 111 Gecowets Drive. There is **NO CHARGE** for the class. A pizza lunch and beverages will be provided to all attendees. All Indiana boating laws and regulations will be covered. Last year all attendees successfully completed the course and received their Boater Safety certificates. To register go to: <https://www.register-ed.com/programs/indiana/104-indiana.../agency:25>.

### **THINK TWICE BEFORE YOU FLUSH**

The Town has seen an increase in grinder pump failures, due to extraneous materials that should not be flushed. Please help the Town refrain from having to institute a penalty for damaged grinders by using your grinder systems appropriately.

The following items should be treated like diapers and tossed into a lined wastebasket, **not down your drain or commode:**

- ^ Diapers and diaper wipes
- ^ Flushable wipes (They may be flushable but are not biodegradable.)
- ^ Feminine hygiene materials, tampons, including applicators
- ^ Condoms
- ^ Grease

Please also remember the grinder station that sets on your (or your-next-door-neighbors') property sends your waste water from your cottage to Fremont for processing. This unit needs to have ventilation of at least four inches (4") **BELOW** the lid that covers the station. For maintenance purposes, we also need to be able to see the circuit breaker box with the "**RED WARNING LIGHT**" on the top from the street.

If you have landscaped the five foot (5') radius around your grinder station in an attempt to camouflage what is there, please consider having those plantings removed. The best solution would be to reseed the area with lawn grass. No mulch please. This landscaping may cause your grinder to fail when you have a house full of family and friends on a busy holiday week-end. It also causes additional cost to you as a property owner in replacement and repairs to the grinders. (See *Code of Ordinance Chapter 51.61{D}* on the Town's website

### **TRASH SERVICE UPDATE**

As of January 1, 2017, Sanitation Solutions has merged their business with Washler Inc., Garbage & Recycling Services. Washler Inc. is a local, family-owned and operated business located in Garrett, Indiana, and has been servicing residential and commercial waste removal in the surrounding areas since 2012. Here at Washler Inc. we are passionate about what we do and focus on outstanding customer service every moment of every day.

We are committed to ensuring that this business merger is as seamless as possible with very little effect on our customers as possible. Clear Lake's trash pick-up day will remain on Mondays. **Recyclables** pick up will be the **first and third Monday** of each month. (If you need a recycle bin, contact Town Hall.) **Heavy trash** pick-up dates will be **June 10** and **Sept. 16**.

- We ask that you **bag as much trash as possible** and tie your bags. This helps to keep trash from blowing away as we dump your trash containers.
- We suggest that you **set out your trash the night** before your pick-up day to ensure you are not missed. We start our routes around 4:00 am every day to allow us to get our customers serviced each and our workers home with their families in the evenings.
- Please **leave your trash out all day** for us as the time of actual pick up on your service day can vary. Our goal is to keep on schedule as much as possible, but weather or equipment failures can cause delays.

### **THINGS TO CONSIDER REGARDING PAYING YOUR BILLS**

The Town of Clear Lake is not set up to handle EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer). If you have your bank pay your utilities, the financial institution still has to cut a check to send to Town Hall. Customers think that if they ask their bank to pay on the 15<sup>th</sup>, payment will arrive on the 15<sup>th</sup>. That is not always the case. However, if Clear Lake owners use Auto-Draw, the payment is drawn by our billing clerk on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month (unless that date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday and then it is the next day). The direct-payment form for utilities is on the Town's website [www.townofclearlake.org](http://www.townofclearlake.org) at the Town Forms link. If you would like to have a form mailed to you, please call Town Hall (260-495-9158) or stop in during regular business hours.

If you need to make a change in your name and/or address, please notify the Billing Clerk or Clerk/Treasurer at Town Hall. If you have assigned a relative or administrator the responsibility for taking care of your finances, please also update this contact information. These forms are also available on the Town's website. The link is Update Owner Info.

## WELCOME GUY RODGERS

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Guy Rodgers as our new street and utility worker who will report to Bob Hull our Town Superintendent. He graduated from Jonesville, Michigan, High School and has held several positions in the area. He brings strong problem-solving and technical skills to our team. Guy and his wife, Elysia, live on a small, Steuben County farm, which is approximately 10 minutes from the CL Town Hall. Elysia is the Agriculture and Natural Resources Director for the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service in DeKalb County. The Rodgers have four children, are active in 4-H, and are passionate about agricultural education.

## SEWER UTILITY NEWS

In early March Clear Lake received Notice of a Sewer Rate Hearing from the Town of Fremont. A rate hearing was scheduled for March 20, 2017. Fremont proposed a 36.5% rate increase for processing Clear Lake's waste from the town's collection system. Clear Lake appeared at the hearing to challenge the rate classification applied to the Town and to oppose the rate increase as applied to Clear Lake. Clear Lake further asked the Town of Fremont to postpone enactment of the rate increase in order to hold negotiations with the Town regarding the terms of Fremont's continued provision of wholesale service to the Town of Clear Lake. Fremont postponed the final decision at that meeting. On March 22, 2017, the Town of Fremont adopted the new rate ordinance as proposed. Clear Lake representatives then met with Fremont Town Council President on March 24, 2017, to attempt to negotiate the terms under which wholesale service would continue to be provided to Clear Lake, but the towns were unable to reach any agreement or further understanding. As a result, on March 29, 2017, the Town of Clear Lake filed a petition before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission seeking review of Fremont's rates and charges on behalf of itself and residents that signed a petition asking for the review.

## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP LAND CONSERVANCY

Happy spring! We are eager to be outside with the onset of warmer weather and sunshine. The Board stayed busy this winter as we updated our 25-year-old bylaws. Using examples from other land trusts in the state, we were able to incorporate important guidelines on communications. Many of our board members reside elsewhere over the winter so conference and video-calling help us stay on track and keep momentum going through the winter months. Huge thanks to the bylaw reviewers!

Please update your calendars from each Wednesday to each Friday in July for our **Knee-high Naturalist** program this year. More details are coming soon!

We are in the planning stages of what's sure to be a fun event on **Saturday, June 24** at the Yacht Club. Gay's Hops-N-Schnapps is sponsoring-- "Conservancy Spiritfest"-- an evening of Classic Cocktails and Classic Clear Lake auction items to benefit priority Conservancy projects. We are looking for help on the decorating, marketing, and auction committees. If you have any interest in working on this event, please contact Bridget (260-316-1397). More details, including ticket price, will be shared on our website and in upcoming newsletters.

The Kasota Island Restoration Project is progressing. We met with the permitting agencies and we will be submitting for permits soon. We are in the final stages of Phase I: permitting, survey, & design and we are hopeful to start Phase II this fall. We will install a bioengineered seawall around the north, west, and south shoreline. The goal of this project is to stop the current rate of erosion, 3-4 inches per year, and to prevent further loss of shoreline. If you are planning a special event or overnight stay on Kasota Island, please call our

office (260-316-1397). While on the island, don't forget to clean up after your pet, leave the rocks at the island, refrain from bringing glass ashore, and, please, no fires outside of designated locations.

Our annual Board of Directors meeting will be on **Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00pm at Town Hall. We look forward to this opportunity to hear from you.



Bridget Harrison  
Executive Director  
clearlakeconservancy.org

### **SPRING INTO ACTION**

There was very little ice on Clear Lake this year and spring is settling in. Each year we at the Conservancy share ways to prepare for the summer season at our beautiful lake. We will continue our "clear" legacy only if we become a total "*Community of Stewards*" as we all do our individual part to contribute to the health of our waters.

**If you choose to fertilize your lawn** and do an early spring application, please remember:

- Use *only phosphorus free* materials. The *middle* number on the bag indicates the amount of phosphorus. This number should be *zero*.
- *Request phosphorus free* fertilizer from lawn application services. Of all the minerals and elements that feed into Clear Lake, *phosphorus* is the factor most responsible for accelerating algae and weed growth!
- If you fertilize, leave a strip of *unfertilized* lawn along the lake edge

#### **Other Tips for Early Spring Clean Up:**

- Keep leaves, grass, and other yard waste out of the lake
- Keep *all* yard waste out of the Wet Areas around the lake. They are the "kidneys" of Clear Lake.
- Please do not pour any chemicals into the lake.

The Clear Lake Marina will dispose of old motor oil. Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District (NISWMD) can take care of almost any disposal need including the many sticks and branches down from the windy weather. See [www.niswmd.org](http://www.niswmd.org) for locations and hours.

- Consider installing natural glacial rock at your water's edge to break up wave action and capture suspended sediments.

Let's make it our goal this year to become a "*Community of Stewards.*" It is time once again to Spring Into Action.

### **THINK SUMMER**

Mark your calendars for the Clear Lake Community Ice Cream Social to be held **Saturday, July 22, 6:00-8:00 pm**, at the park across the road from the church at 270 Outer Drive. This summer gathering is a joint project of Clear Lake Lutheran Church and Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy to celebrate the renewal of Koeneman Lake Nature Preserve. There will be no charge for this family-oriented event. Look for more details in the next edition of this newsletter or the Conservancy's website. (clearlakeconservancy.org)

*Speaking of summer, the 1920s photo on page 7 was submitted by Bonnie Brown.*



## CLEAR LAKE

Clear Lake, nestling among the beautifully wooded knolls of the extreme northeastern corner of Indiana, with an elevation of a thousand feet above sea level, is a "Fisherman's Paradise and a Bather's Delight." Ray, Indiana, which is on the N. Y. C., is the Railroad Station and Post Office. An excellent road now connects Clear Lake with Fort Wayne, registering a 57-mile drive.

Every family should summer at some lake like Clear Lake—not too far from the city—yet out in the open where the skies are blue and where birds sing lullabies to tired nerves. A summer spent in a cottage or in a quiet little hotel like the Riddle Inn is an economy—not an extravagance. Cheaper and better food. Simpler clothing. Less occasion for spending. Safer and more enjoyable social life for the young.

Lake property is a good investment,—safer and better paying than city property. During the reconstruction period following the World War, when all farm land and most city property declined in value, lake property advanced steadily. Desirable lake frontage is becoming scarce. Higher values are inevitable. For information concerning cottages, sites or accommodations at the Riddle Inn, address

T. P. RIDDLE,  
Ray, Indiana, R. F. D., or telephone through Fremont, Indiana,  
Phone 5712.

*Editor's Note: Publication of this edition of CLA Newsletter was delayed due to information not available until mid-April. The next issue will be released by June 29, in time for holiday week end.*

## **CLEAR LAKE TOWN CALENDAR**

<b>May</b>	<b>2017</b>
1	Plan Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
1	Leaf Pickup Begins Through May 5, 2017
8	Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
22	Leaf Pickup Begins Through June 2, 2017
27	Clear Lake Lions Chicken BBQ, 9:00 a.m. Clear Lake Lutheran Church
29	Town Offices Closed for Memorial Day Holiday
30	Trash pick-up (delayed due to the Memorial Day Holiday)
<b>June</b>	<b>2017</b>
10	Heavy Trash Pickup, 6:00 a.m.
10	Clear Lake Association Boater Safety Class, 8:00 a.m., Town Hall
12	Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
19	Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, - 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
<b>July</b>	<b>2017</b>
1	Clear Lake Lions Chicken BBQ, 9:00 a.m. Clear Lake Lutheran Church
1	Clear Lake Association Fireworks - Sunset (Saturday)
2	Fireworks Rain Date - Sunset (Sunday)
4	Town Offices Closed for Independence Day Holiday
8	Clear Lake Lions 5K/10K Run, 2M Walk, 7:00 a.m. Clear Lake Lutheran Church
10	Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
15	Clear Lake Association Annual Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Town Hall
22	Community Ice Cream Social, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Clear Lake Lutheran Church
28	Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy Annual Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Town Hall

*The members of the Clear Lake Association provide the funding for the publication and distribution of the "Clear Lake News." The purpose of this publication is to communicate activities of Clear Lake Town government and other Clear Lake organizations to all property owners. If you would like to receive CLA News, please send your email address to [azbrown2@frontier.com](mailto:azbrown2@frontier.com).*



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